

APRIL 12, 2023

**Taxation Committee**

Maine State Legislature

RE: LD 1075 – An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives

Dear Taxation Committee,

I have long since considered myself lucky to reside in Maine. Truthfully, there are few places in the country I would prefer to call home, if any! Full of nature's wonder, friendly people, and a small-town feel no matter what part of the state you visit. What more could one ask for? In terms of lifestyle, Maine easily makes the top of the list. Economically, however, there is room for improvement. By most metrics, Maine is consistently regarded as notoriously "tax unfriendly." This is true for individuals, but particularly so for business and industry. It's not a great leap to suggest that this trend has stunted our potential for economic growth, and by extension, our local economy. I am sure you have heard the long-standing joke that Maine's greatest export is "graduates and talent." Because for so long, there was little cause for any of us to stay here!

So of course, I strongly support this plan for bringing competitive tax incentives for film to Maine. This is exactly the kind of action we need to see executed if Maine is ever to break free of its proverbial economic chains. I think the film industry, in particular, is a great place to start. The industry has an inherent passion for the preservation of historic architecture- a value that Maine shares both on the collective and individual level. If this plan were to be actualized, I have no doubt there would be far-reaching positive economic impacts. As members of the film industry come to Maine for filming purposes, many of them would no doubt, fall in love with its beauty just as so many of us have already. This would invigorate the local Maine economy through the purchases of real estate, goods, services, and the like. My opinion may be considered biased, but I believe real estate is the key economic component which will allow for some of the greatest impact. This is due to the fact that a single real estate transaction has the potential to involve many other industries and professions (brokers, lenders, inspectors, appraisers, contractors, insurers, closing agents, attorneys, etc.). Therefore, as Maine's real estate/housing industry grows, so too do many others along with it. Furthermore, I think this project would ultimately have the added effect of bolstering Maine's already established tourist economy.

Frankly, there are too many positives to list here! Bottom line, the plan for competitive tax incentives for film in Maine is a great one, and something that our State leaders should not overlook. As someone who loves Maine for what it is, but is also willing to recognize the areas we fall short, I give this plan my highest possible endorsement!

Sincerely,



**Ian Duggan**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

LEGACY PROPERTIES SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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